

SALEM, WASHINGTON CO.

NEW YORK

April 23<sup>d</sup> 1924

Dear Mr. Shane

If I mistake not this is your birthday and we both wish you a very happy day, and if may be, many more birthdays if health & strength remain with you. I fully intended writing for your anniversary but on it, but no longer do I carry out my intentions on time, & I find myself preparing most of my plume with "if all is well" I will do so & so; & yet I know & believe that whatever comes to me is well. Yes, I well remember the photo, you took of Audubon relics; I have the photo and most of the articles, but when we went to Europe in 1905 I sent the dress of the Indian Queen to the Museum of Natural History because he learned the value of it were worth \$800, and he had been quite annoyed by many demands by



teller & personally for the teeth, and so feared  
it might be stolen; the Museum put it in  
a very handsome locked case and told us  
it was much more valuable than even that  
valuation; on our return it was not in the  
case. So we investigated, and heard that it  
was temporarily in Washington as the figures  
& painting on it filled a long searched for  
gap in some ethnological (if that is the proper  
word) studies, long sought for; but it is now in  
its own case again.

Thank you for your exposition of the "Cloud  
of witnesses" it is very beautiful & very interest-  
ing; this winter we read aloud Tapini's  
"Life of Christ" in which I was very greatly  
disappointed; after all nothing touches  
the Bible, but one point has brought to my  
attention which I had never noticed; namely  
that our Saviour never touched money, he  
spoke of it, looked at it, but never touched it;  
reading is my greatest resource though I  
am thankful to say my sight being good  
and my mind clear - though I do sometimes



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I strike my books over a good deal.  
 I forget it, I do a little embroidery, and a little  
 knitting but have not strength for much.  
 The winter here until February was not so  
 cold but damp & dreary, February very cold &  
 the weather since then not pleasant: the  
 spring very late and the few birds that have  
 come back look frozen. I have been rather  
 miserable physically all winter, & rarely went  
 out even on the piazza & from Florence was  
 so miserable that I was greatly worried about her;  
 finally an exhausted (& exhausting) I say  
 excommunication put it of course on her teeth.  
 So fine, one a front one, had to come out and  
 substitutes put in: she really is already  
 much better, but what she needs is a respite  
 from "too much sister" for she will not leave  
 me, & like Charles the Second I feel like  
 Courtously saying "Pardon me, gentlemen  
 for taking so long to die.. " after all one can



accept much from a truly courteous & gentle  
man. Last week I had sent me a most  
interesting paper on sea birds of the Pacific  
Coast & some Aus. birds by Dr. Cassin, Wood,  
he heard of me through Mr. Rutherford Seamer &  
it has been very interesting to read, it is type-  
written but I shall have it bound for a number  
several of my friends to read it, & it is fatal  
to part with loose sheets, as you doubtless know.  
My sister Harriet now 84, is well and has a  
guest of honor at a "Ferdinand & Isabella"  
ball in honor of Columbus a few weeks since.  
I am glad to hear you & yours are fairly  
well, remember me to Mrs. Brown &  
aff. regards to all the family including my  
(naturally) parents from us both.

Sincerely & aff. fr. friend  
M. W. Rutherford

My writing is poorer now  
but my friends must excuse it



Audubon, Maria R. 1924. "Audubon, Maria R Apr. 23, 1924." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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